August - September

T2 7460

EAST TIMOR - Latest Information
August/September 1992

On 19 August a number of activists of the Clandestine Front were captured, among them Agostinho Pereira and Ató.

Agostinho Pereira (Mau Laku) was caught and brutally beaten in Dili airport as he was attempting to flee to Jakarta. The documents he was carrying were seized by the military and this caused the situation in Dili to deteriorate. That same day the military raided the homes of Gaspar Luis X. Carlos and Francisco Carlos (Abono). The raids were launched as a result of Agostinho Pereira being violently interrogated in the Colmera secret prison and releasing information about the two. At first Gaspar and Francisco managed to avoid arrest but were later caught. Gaspar was picked up in Kupang when the military, assisted by Gaspar's boss (Bank Danamon), laid a trap for him. Abono was picked up in Dili and to date his whereabouts are unknown. He was accused of having grenades in his possession.

In the course of the interrogations of the above activists, the identities of certain other activists were revealed, ie, Mrs Maria Branca Lourdes (wife of Cipinang prisoner Albino Lourdes), Armando Pinto, Fernando Baptista and others. Maria Branca was summoned by the military on 16/9/92 and interrogated for one day and one night. In a letter sent to her son in Kupang, she said: "Stay calm and always remember that for us and for all our people, suffering is nothing new". Maria continued to be called up whenever confirmation of various prisoners' declarations was required. Her home is constantly watched by the armed forces.

On 1 September, 50 Dili students were captured under the pretext of preserving security for the NAM conference in Jakarta. By the middle of September, only 43 of the 50 had been released.

The latest information received from East Timor reports a situation of generalised terror throughout the entire terrirory; meanwhile, the oppression and massacres continue with even greater intensity and the Indonesian Armed Forces are doing all in their power to ensure that an impression of the true situation goes ignored by the outside world.

The two East Timorese prisoners recently freed from Cipinang, Mariano Bonaparte Soares and Zé Roberto SMJ, arrived back in Dili on 25 September, 1992, and were subjected to new interrogations over three consecutive days. They are set to be interrogated once again on 20/10/92 and on the 1st, 5th and 10th of November.

The same source as above also reported that the military is preparing itself for any possible foreign visit, and specifically that of a group of Australian parliamentarians due in November.

LOSPALOS

Fighting in this region has had grave consequences for the defenceless population. According to information received, the military fired on a group of people working in their fields as a reprisal for a number of Indonesian casualties resulting from resistance bullets. To corroborate this news, the source mentions that in August, soldiers of Battalion 745 murdered a local man named Humberto who had been working

on his plot of land. His head and arms were cut off and hung in a tree beside the road. At the end of July, soldiers of Battalion 511 assassinated a Timorese fighter who had been collecting wood from a village for use at his military post. The Indonesian military then seized his g3 weapon and presented it to the sector commander, claiming it had been captured from Fretilin. The murdered man was Jose Valente. Both Humberto and Jose were natives of the village of Kakaven, Lospalos.

In that area, as of the beginning of August, the military has prevented the people from working on their land as part of their efforts to encircle Falintil. The people have been rounded up and subjected to a barrage of threats and intimidation with the following message: "We are asking you to force your brothers and sisters who have taken up arms against us and all those who are still in the bush, to surrender. If you don't obey this request of ours, the consequences for you will be grave. We have introduced certain measures and you are going hungry; if you enter your gardens, there will be further deaths. This is your fault, but mainly that of Fretilin". These sorts of words are frequently used in explaining their actions.

INFORMATION ON GUERILLA ACTIVITIES

Although the resistance suffered casualties, Commandant Faluk Rate Laek views the outcome of Indonesia's campaign of encirclement which is still continuing, to be another great success for Falintil.

In May, in a guerilla counter-attack fought in Culu Laran, Fatumaca-Baucau against Battalion 407, Falintil forces lost a guerilla called Paulino and also his weapon, but they acquired 3 ar15 weapons from 3 fallen Indonesian soldiers.

In June an Indonesian spy was killed by Falintil in the village of Boito, Ossu. On the 27th of the same month, Falintil eliminated 6 Indonesian soldiers from Battalion 407 and captured a weapon.

On 7 July 1992, the guerilla forces lost 2 men, one of them between Atsabe and Ainaro. The Indonesians also managed to capture the Assistant TARA and one of his guards, both of whom are now in Dili.

MALIANA

Of all of the tremendous violations that are occurring in this region, one particular event marks a historic moment in the history of the popular resistance:

37 year old Olandino Guterres, a native of Bobonaro working as a guard for the Indonesian police force, and armed with military gear, led a group of determined youths out of the town to fight in the service of Falintil. On 17/12/1990, Olandino was caught, tortured and imprisoned in a secret place of detention belonging to the Maliana District Military Command 1636. Never wanting to be caught again, he had decided to flee to the bush.

ERMERA

This region has frequently been made the target of Indonesian reprisals: this time, as a result of the reprisals, a number of citizens fled from the area, along with three fully armed Timorese members of the Indonesian army. 40 year old widower Ernesto, a

former Falintil platoon commandant who was captured and persecuted in 1978, fled to the bush with his 2 nephews, Paulo Pinto and Alberto, and together with 3 members of the Ermera District Military Command, joined the resistance forces.

LOSPALOS

This is the region that the local people refer to as 'The Valley of Forgotten Blood'. On June 13, 1992, in a surprise Indonesian attack, a Falintil platoon commandant was killed by soldiers from Battalion 433 in Luro. The Indonesian side lost 5 men and didn't manage to capture any weapons. On 27 August, 1992, Falintil raided and seized an Indonesian military encampment in the Ililapa valley. From this raid they acquired military equipment, including weapons.

5 days later in the Ribeira battle in Cinvero, Falintil killed an Indonesian platoon commander from Battalion 511 and seized weapons and military uniforms. Information sources confirm that since August, Falintil has managed to seize 16 arms in the area between Iliomar and Tutuala.

20/7/1992 to August 1992

The Indonesian Armed Forces captured 27 members of the civilian population in the area of Viqueque and took them to a secret location. Even today their whereabouts are unknown:

1. Fernando da Silva Nobai, 30 years old, official of the Viqueque regional administration, captured by the Nanggala troops in Logatoi-Viqueque.

2. Rui Jose da Silva, 19 years old, son of Jose da Silva and Olandina Ximenes, captured in the village of Ossoroa, in the Viqueque district.

3. Faustino da Silva, 30 years old, farmer, captured by members of the District Military Command in the village of Waitama Uma Kik.

4. Jose da Silva, 35 years old, captured by the Nanggala troops in the post of Ossu, in Wabobo Ossogori.

5. Mario Miranda, 28 years old, captured by the Nanggala troops in Ossoroa-Derolu, Ossu.

6. Baltazar Guterres, 27 years old, captured by the Nanggalas in the village of Ossogori, Ossu.

7. Miguel Soares Pinto, Education Dept employee, brutally tortured at the site of his arrest.

8. Januario

9. Luis Baptista

10. Xisto Pereira, Education Dept employee, brutally tortured

11. Fernando Moniz

12. Vasco

13. Mario da Silva

14. Abilio

15. Julio

16. Antonio

17. Domingos Amaral

18. Idefonso

19. Alberto

20. Elisio Freitas, from Samalari village, Baucau

21. Benvinda Rodrigues, a student, taken from her home on the evening of 15/7/92.

22. Juliao Vital, Viqueque

Others failed to be identified because of the intensified campaign of the Indonesian Armed Forces which began at around that time and continues into the present month of October, 1992.

In August a Timorese member of the police force called Alberto da Costa Ribeiro was accused of being a GPK (security disruptor). After being rigorously interrogated for one week, he was released.

According to our source of information who has been in East Timor (Dili and Baucau), there are currently 27 battalions active in the territory, and they are, amongst others: battalions 411, 403, 511, 512, 513, 514, 407, 315, 446, 312, 516, 433, 744, 745, 145.

DILI

1. The Indonesian military has planted agents pretending to be students in all of the schools.

2. All vehicles which are making the journey into the interior are driven by agents of the military commands.

3. Another method used for wiping out suspected enemies is orchestrating 'accidents'. For example, Francisco Rego and another man who was a prisoner in 1989, were run down by soldiers from a detachment in Dili. After being run down, the two were subjected to threats and beatings, the leg of one of them was fractured, and both are in a serious condition. This incident occurred around Fatu Hada, the place where Mau Hodu was captured.

Compiled by the Information Section of the CNVST

(Translated from Portuguese: October 13, Kirsty Sword)